Amendments to the Claims:

No amendments were made to the claims.

Claims 1 to 97. (cancelled)

98. (previously presented): A method for inactivating at least one biological contaminant or pathogen in a preparation containing albumin comprising irradiating said preparation with gamma radiation at a rate of greater than 3.0 kGy/hr for a time effective to inactivate at least one biological contaminant or pathogen in said preparation.

99. (previously presented): A method for inactivating at least one biological contaminant or pathogen in a plasma protein fraction preparation comprising irradiating said preparation with gamma radiation at a rate greater than 3.0 kGy/hr for a time effective to inactivate at least one biological contaminant or pathogen in said preparation.

100. (previously presented): A method for inactivating at least one biological contaminant or pathogen in a plasma protein fraction preparation comprising reducing the temperature of said preparation to a level effective to protect said preparation from gamma irradiation; and irradiating said preparation with gamma irradiation for a time effective to inactivate at least one biological contaminant or pathogen in said preparation.

101. (previously presented): The method according to claim 98, 99 or 100 further comprising reducing residual solvent present in said preparation to a level effective to protect said preparation from said gamma radiation.

102. (previously presented): The method according to claim 98, 99 or 100 further comprising adding to said preparation at least one stabilizer in an amount effective to protect said preparation from said gamma radiation.

103. (previously presented): The method according to claim 98 or 99, further comprising reducing the temperature of said preparation to a level effective to protect said preparation from said gamma radiation.

104. (previously presented): The method according to claim 98 or 99, further comprising at least two of

(i) reducing residual solvent present in said preparation to a level effective to protect said preparation from said gamma radiation;

(ii) adding to said preparation at least one stabilizer in an amount effective to protect said preparation from said gamma radiation; and

(iii) reducing the temperature of said preparation to a level effective to protect said preparation from said gamma radiation.

105. (previously presented): The method according to claim 99 or 100 wherein said plasma protein fraction comprises albumin.

106. (previously presented): The method according to claim 99 or 100 wherein said plasma protein fraction further comprises at least one protein selected from the group consisting of a coagulation protein, a lipoprotein and a complement protein.

107. (previously presented): The method according to claim 104, wherein said coagulation protein is at least one selected from the group consisting of Factor VII, Factor VIII Factor IX and von Willebrands factor.

108. (previously presented): The method according to claim 99 or 100 wherein said plasma protein fraction further comprises at least one biological material selected from the group consisting of hemoglobin, alpha-globulin, beta-globulin and gamma-globulin.

109. (previously presented): The method according to claim 98 or 99 wherein said rate is greater than about 6.0 kGy/hr.

110. (previously presented): The method according to claim 98 or 99 wherein said rate is greater than about 18 kGy/hr.

111. (previously presented): The method according to claim 98 or 99 wherein said rate is greater than about 30.0 kG/hr.

112. (previously presented): The method according to claim 101 wherein said residual solvent is water.

113. (previously presented): The method according to claim 101 wherein said residual solvent is an organic solvent.

114. (previously presented): The method according to claim 101 wherein said residual solvent is reduced by a method selected from the group consisting of lyophilization, concentration, addition of solute, chemical extraction, spray-drying and vitrification.

115. (previously presented): The method according to claim 101 wherein the content of said residual solvent present in said preparation after said reduction is less than about 10%.

116. (previously presented): The method according to claim 101 wherein the content of said residual solvent present in said preparation after said reduction is less than about 5%.

117. (previously presented): The method according to claim 102 wherein said at least one stabilizer is an antioxidant.

118. (previously presented): The method according to claim 102 wherein said at least one stabilizer is a free radical scavenger.

119. (previously presented): The method according to claim 102 wherein said at least one stabilizer is selected from the group consisting of ascorbic acid or a salt or an ester thereof; DMSO, mannitol, trehalose, glutathione; 6-hydroxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethylchrom-2-carboxylic acid; uric acid or a salt

or ester thereof; methionine; histidine; N-acetyl cysteine; lipoic acid; sodium formaldehyde sulfoxylate and gallic acid or a salt or an ester thereof.

120. (previously presented): The method according to claim 100 wherein said temperature is reduced below ambient temperature.

121. (previously presented): The method according to claim 100 wherein said temperature is reduced below the freezing point of said preparation.

122. (previously presented): The method according to claim 100 wherein said temperature is reduced below the eutectic point of said preparation.

123. (previously presented): The method according to claim 100 wherein said temperature is reduced below 0°C.

124. (previously presented): The method according to claim 100 wherein said temperature is reduced below minus 40°C.

125. (previously presented): The method according to claim 100 wherein said temperature is reduced below minus 60°C.

126. (previously presented): The method according to claim 98, 99 or 100 wherein said gamma irradiation is administered for a time effective to sterilize said preparation.

127. (previously presented): The method according to claim 98 wherein the preparation containing albumin is selected from the group consisting of Albuminar®, Buminate®, Albutein® and Albumarc®.

128. (previously presented): The method according to claim 99 or 100 wherein the plasma protein fraction preparation is selected from the group consisting of Plasma-Plex®, Protenate® and Plasmatein®.

129. (previously presented): The method according to claim 99 or 100 wherein the plasma protein fraction preparation is Plasmanate®.

130. (previously presented): A biological composition produced by any of the methods of claim 98, 99 or 100.

131. (previously presented): The composition of claim 130 wherein the composition is sterile albumin.

132. (previously presented): The composition of claim 130 wherein the composition is sterile plasma protein fraction.

133. (previously presented): A method for inactivating at least one biological contaminant or pathogen in a plasma protein fraction preparation comprising irradiating said preparation with gamma radiation for a time effective to sterilize said preparation.

134. (previously presented): A method for inactivating at least one biological contaminant or pathogen in a plasma protein fraction preparation consisting essentially of irradiating said preparation with gamma radiation for a time effective to sterilize said preparation.

135. (previously presented): A method for inactivating at least one biological contaminant or pathogen in a plasma protein fraction preparation consisting of irradiating said preparation with gamma radiation for a time effective to sterilize said preparation.